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SCORE INEFFICIENCY IN SOVIET MACHINE-BUILDING PLANT;
PRODUCE NEW SEWING MACHINE

KLIMOVSK PLANT WASTES MATERIALS, WAGES -- Moskovskaya Pravda, 27 Feb 51

Losses over and above the plan at the Klimovsk Machine-Building Plant amounted to 5.5 million rubles last year. Analysis of these losses shows that they are due both to disorder within the plant and to circumstances beyond the plant's control. All of the plant's output was unprofitable; for example, the actual cost of an ATS-100 loom was more than 1,100 rubles over the plan cost. This would not have happened if the Ministry of Machine and Instrument Building had kept in mind the changes which have taken place as a result of the modernization of looms and the improvement of their finish and had correctly determined their plan cost.

The plant did not make sufficient efforts to reduce unproductive waste, which amounted to about 2.5 million rubles. As a result, the cost of comparable production was only lowered 7.3 percent as compared to 1949 instead of the 25.6 percent called for by the plan. Most of the unproductive waste resulted from losses due to defective parts, which exceeded 1.5 million rubles, not counting the cost of reclaiming parts.

A large part of the defective parts are made by the foundry, where up to 16 percent of the castings are defective. To this must be added the far more costly loss that becomes apparent after machining.

The plant is very short of castings and has to resort to production cooperatives to fill its needs. The old foundry is very badly organized. Charges for the cupola furnaces are made up without analysis, often without weighing. The wrong type of iron sometimes gets into the charge, as does steel scrap with a large chromium content. This is one of the chief causes of defective parts. The sand-conditioning division of the foundry has for a long time been "unable" to acquire a magnetic separator, costing all of several thousand rubles, for removing metal particles from sand. The foundry is incurring huge losses for lack of this machine.

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The design department, headed by Markin, is responsible for the fact that the supply department has to furnish more than 800 designated items of material to the shops. The variety of construction steels is especially great. As a result, the demand for certain types of steel sometimes amounts to only several kilograms for the quarter. To remedy this situation, the supply department substitutes one size of metal for another. Then the large size metal is reground and reformed into smaller sizes at the plant, wasting time, energy, and metal in the process. Last year, the plant wasted enough metal in this way in three quarters to enable it to fulfill its quarterly plan. Similarly, there is no need for the plant to order types of steel which are very similar in characteristics or dimensions.

The lack of parts standardization not only creates difficulties for the supply department and causes metal waste, but also leads to overexpenditure of wages paid for remachining parts. Wages increase more rapidly than labor productivity at this plant, 26 percent more rapidly in the past year.

Norms are not established correctly at the Klimovsk plant. Although the plans for production and labor productivity were not fulfilled, the average fulfillment of norms in the plant was 162 percent, and almost 200 percent in the auxiliary shops. Individual workers exceeded their norms 300 percent, even though they wasted 20 percent or more of their working time. Twenty-five percent of the plant's losses were in the form of overexpenditure of wages.

The plant's capital turnover slowed down as compared to 1949. This is accounted for by the considerable above-plan balances of goods-materials assets, especially finished products. The average yearly above-plan balances of finished products exceeded 5 million rubles. These excessive balances are the fault of the Ministry of Machine and Instrument Building, particularly the Main Administration of Light Textile Machinery (headed by Shestakov) which does not furnish the Klimovsk plant with the plans for the sale of production, does not send its loading orders on time, and does not coordinate its orders with the orders of the Main Administration customers.

For the first quarter of this year, the plant received a plan by which it would sell 200 automatic looms less than had been planned for production. Similarly, the plan for the sale of winding machines was half as large as the plan for their production. The production plan calls for 116 AT-175sh machine tools, while the sales plan calls for 168.

The plant management does not put sufficient emphasis on individual cost accounting. The above-norm stock of semimanufactured articles, accessories of small value, and tares amounted to 1,679,000 rubles in January of this year, and at the same time, the enterprise did not have the funds to acquire raw materials and auxiliary materials.

The amount of uncompleted production more than doubled in a year, and now exceeds the norm by more than 2,200,000 rubles. At the same time, the assembly shops are always short of parts.

The economic planning department does not concern itself with the output of products per thousand rubles of basic facilities, the output per square meter of production space, nor the efficiency with which equipment is used.

There are a number of sections of the enterprise whose workers should receive prompt aid from the Ministry of Machine and Instrument Building, and also from the Ministry of Construction of Machine-Building Enterprises.

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PRODUCE 12-NEEDLE SEWING MACHINE -- Moscow, Ogonek, 4 Feb 51

In 1949, specialists of the Scientific Research Institute of the Sewing Industry, Ministry of Light Industry USSR, designed the first 12-needle sewing machine in the Soviet Union. The Kiev Spetsshveymashina Plant carried on experimental work on the machine for half a year, and began series output in 1950. The 12-needle machine replaces eight ordinary machines and turns out 250 meters of wide material per hour. It is being used in large sewing factories in Moscow, Leningrad, the Baltic area, the Caucasus, and in Altay.

DESCRIBES MECHANISMS FOR AUTOMATIC SHOE MACHINES -- Moscow, Sovetskaya Kniga, Aug 50

[Review of *Mekhanizmy Obuvnykh Mashin* (Shoe Machine Mechanisms), I. I. Kapustin, State Machine-Building Publishing House, Moscow, 272 pp.]

Kapustin's book is the first study of the theory of shoe-machine mechanisms. The author devotes considerable space to the theory of mechanisms for the automatic loading of machines and automatic feeding of materials. Break-downs in the nail-feeding mechanism of shoe machines often cause stoppages which amount to 12 percent of the work day. In some machines these mechanisms do not work at all and it is necessary to place an extra worker on the machine.

Research conducted by the author showed that the force required to press some pedals amounted to as much as 40 kilograms. By lowering the pedal pressure of sewing machines from 8 to 2 kilograms, labor productivity was raised 5 percent.

The seventh chapter of Kapustin's book can serve as the theoretical basis for the designing of mechanisms to make shoe-manufacturing equipment automatic.

CITE LIGHT INDUSTRY ADVANCES IN 1950 -- Leningradskaya Pravda, 1 Feb 51

The Statistical Administration RSFSR announced that local and republic industry organized the production of the following articles in 1950: various types of metal-cutting machine tools, highly productive machines for making school notebooks, wind generators for kolkhoz radio receiving units, semiautomatics for making chinaware, and home refrigerators.

The number of conveyer ovens has been increased and bread baking has been almost completely mechanized in the baking industry.

In light industry, the output of highly productive scutching and carding machines, ribbon looms, speeders, automatic reelers, and wide automatic looms has been considerably increased. More conveyers have been put into operation in the hosiery, sewing, and shoe industries, and the application of the continuous method of production has been expanded.

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